



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Johannes I.M. COBBEN et al.

Serial No.: 09/889,598

Filed: November 21, 2001

For: SECURITY DOCUMENT WITH A
PERFORATION PATTERN

Atty. Docket No.: 000771.00023

Group Art Unit: 3722

Examiner: Monica S. Carter

Confirmation No.:

RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Office Action of February 18, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Claims 27-29, 31-50 are pending in this application. The indication that claims 27-29, 31-48 and 50 are allowed is appreciated.

Claim 49 remains rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cobben (WO 95/26274). Claim 49, like allowed claim 48 and allowed claim 31, is directed to a forge-proof document comprising a security feature in the form of a perforation pattern which displays gray tones when viewed against a bright background.

Specifically, claim 49 is directed to a method for arranging a perforation pattern in a forge-proof document comprising a security feature in the form of a perforation pattern which *displays gray tones* when viewed against a bright background, the method comprising the following steps: arranging the document to be provided of a perforation pattern in a position in which it can be irradiated by a laser source; and irradiating the document by a laser source which is controlled to obtain a first image in the document wherein: the laser source is programmed to apply a perforation pattern comprising perforations of which the cross-section in the transverse plane of the perforation pattern is unequal to a circle.

Cobben does not teach or suggest providing perforations to provide gray tones. Cobben describes perforations such as shown in Fig. 2, item 8 and creating V-shaped channels as shown

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in Fig. 3. Cobben does not teach or suggest providing perforations to provide gray tones. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: April 16, 2004

By:


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